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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8773
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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8367
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0708
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 5455
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 8863
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2183
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CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - U.S.-JAPAN ALLIANCE

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Lead stories on Tuesday morning included reports on DPJ Secretary General Ozawa's intention to voluntarily submit to questioning by prosecutors over a land purchase made by his political fund organization in 2004.

¶2. "Alliance, Article 9 of Constitution Both Effective" On today's 50th anniversary of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, the liberal Asahi editorialized (1/19): "Under Article 9 of the Constitution, Japan keeps its defense capabilities modest and does not use force abroad, while the U.S. military presence in Japan contributes not only to the defense of Japan but also to stability in the Asia-Pacific region as a deterrent. This is an enduring central feature in U.S.-Japan security arrangements.... Neighbors in Asia have felt reassured by the fact that the U.S.-Japan alliance is paired with Article 9, and have come to accept the alliance as a regional stabilizer."

¶3. "Time to Build New Alliance" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri argued in an editorial (1/19): "One of most serious shortcomings of the Hatoyama administration is its excessive focus on the negative aspects of the U.S. military presence and efforts to reduce the security burden on local communities. It is important for the Hatoyama administration to acknowledge and share a common understanding with the U.S. on the role that U.S. military deterrence has played in peace in Japan and Asia."

¶4. "Alliance Needs to Be Deepened in Multilayered Manner" The liberal Mainichi insisted (1/19): "Developing the alliance with the U.S., which shares such basic values as freedom and democracy with Japan, into an 'international public asset for peace and prosperity' that is commensurate with the 21st century will serve Japan's national interests. Finding a solution to the Futenma relocation, which is a 'thorn' in the bilateral relationship, is imperative.... It is important to strike a balance between 'military' and 'non-military' areas. We would like to see the Hatoyama administration, in launching its alliance talks with the USG,

present a multilayered vision for a deeper alliance that strikes a balance between these two aspects."

15. "Settle Futenma Issue to Prevent Alliance from Becoming Irrelevant" An editorial in the conservative Sankei contended (1/19): "It is problematic that the U.S.-Japan alliance is facing an unprecedented crisis of becoming irrelevant under the Hatoyama administration.... The plans for the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan that were intended make the U.S. military presence more attuned to the international environment in the 21st century have gone adrift over Futenma relocation, and this has made communications between the top leaders impossible. Prime Minister Hatoyama must decide immediately to implement the existing Futenma relocation accord in order to rectify this situation and to put the planned alliance talks on the right track."

ZUMWALT